Claims:

1. A method of operating a desktop system comprising:

creating document object models comprising selected information from and about information assets of diverse types, created by diverse software, said document object models having a consistent structure;

displaying browse cards related to respective ones of the information assets in a time-ordered stream, together with glance views related to the document object models of the respective displayed documents, said glance views being displayed essentially in real time in response to passing a cursor over respective ones of the browse cards.